

II. Remarks

Support for the various amendments made to the claims herein may be found throughout the application as filed. Claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 14 are amended herein, and claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 12 and 13 are cancelled herein. Claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 14 remain pending.

In a May 9, 2007 Office Action (hereafter "Office Action"), claims 1-6, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected on the basis of Section 103 of the Patent Statute. U.S. Patent No. 7,012,979 to Hauptmann et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,137,522 to Melino et al. were cited in support of such rejection. Claims 7, 9, 11 and 14 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The present Response and Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action.

III. Rejections of Claims Made in the Office Action

In the Office Action mailed May 9, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims on the following bases:

- (A) Claims 1-5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,012,979 to Hauptmann et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,522 to Melino et al.
- (B) Claims 7, 9, 11 and 14 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The foregoing rejections and objections are responded to below, where each response references the letter corresponding to each rejection set forth above.

IV. Responses to Rejections and Objections Made in the Office Action

(A) Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 12 and 13 are cancelled herein, rendering moot the rejections of such claims. Claims 2, 3, 4 and 10 are amended herein to depend from claims indicated as being allowable, thereby overcoming the rejections of such claims.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 12 and 13 are cancelled herein, rendering moot the rejections of such claims. Claims 2, 3, 4 and 10 are amended herein to depend from claims indicated as being allowable, thereby overcoming the rejections of such claims. More particularly, claims 2, 3 and 4 now depend from claim 7, which in turn has been rewritten in independent form as required by the Examiner. Claim 10 now depends from claim 9, which has also been rewritten independent form as required by the Examiner.

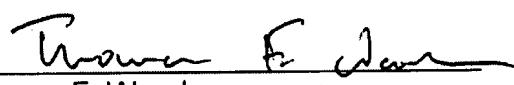
(B) Claims 7, 9, 11 and 14 Have Been Rewritten to Render such Claims Allowable In Accordance with the Examiner's Requirements

In the May 9, 2007 Office Action, claims 7, 9, 11 and 14 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 7 and 9 are rewritten in independent form herein, and all remaining claims still pending here have been amended to depend from such rewritten claims. Consequently, all of still pending claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 14 should now be in condition for allowance.

V. Summary

Claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 14 as amended herein are pending in the present application, and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Examination of the application as amended is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone or e-mail with any questions or comments he may have.

Respectfully submitted,
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